

**I. AMENDMENTS**

**In the Specification:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 29, please replace the paragraph appearing on lines 13 to 16 with the following rewritten paragraph (paragraph [0109] in the published specification):

[0109] Previous studies in rectal cancer showed associations between elevated levels of certain genes, including TS and DPD (2). (Salonga D. et al. (2000) Clin. Cancer Res. 6:1322-1327 and Ishikawa et al. (1999) Clin. Cancer Res. 5:883-889) and a worse outcome after neoadjuvant treatment with 5-FU.